

MANY AMAZING ESCAPES; PITIFUL SEARCHES MADE

Parents Frantically Inquire for Children—Little Girl Found Uninjured; Mother Dead—Hundreds on Scene All Night.

As in all catastrophes, there were many miraculous escapes last night at the Knickerbocker. And there are many who have cause today to be thankful that for some reason which seemed trivial at the time, they changed intentions of going to the Knickerbocker.

Men and women who were rescued, tell of how they sat in the balcony, or in the pit below—how a chance glance at the ceiling above showed the roof parting, followed by a terrific hiss and the crash of falling tons of brick and mortar—how, when they recovered consciousness, they found themselves lying under twisted iron girders—untouched, save for a bruise or scratch.

Parents Search for Children.
One of the most pathetic scenes about the ruins was the work of rescue proceeded was the search of a father, or mother, for a missing boy or girl who had "gone to the movies." Some of them, before the lines of police and soldiers were drawn up around the ruins, had managed to get to the pile of debris. Calling, calling hopefully the name of a loved one, they stumbled about over the wreck; heeding, then passing on, as some voice pleading for help came from beneath the wreckage.

Then the women—the mothers, who gathered outside the lines after they were formed. Pleading with agonized voices to be let inside the lines—they were kept out, a necessity in this case to protect life from the standing wall, expected to capsize any minute.

Telephone calls to The Star office, after news of the catastrophe had spread, were pitiful. One of them, a plaintive, childish voice, said that "Mama and papa went to the movies tonight. Where they hurt?"

Another, from a nurse, said four little children were waiting the return of their parents, who had gone to the theater. Endless questions reached The Star concerning the names of dead and injured. A name would be given, searched for in the first lists received from the scene, and many times the tragic news of a terrible death was broken.

Then there were those who were separated in the accident from those with whom they had gone to the theater. A husband, recovering consciousness, was taken out of the ruins, only to return to look for his wife, who had been sitting beside him. A little child, who with her mother had attended the theater, was taken away, unhurt. Her mother was found later in the debris, dead.

Representative Barkley of Kentucky searched the ruins several hours for his young son, who had started for the theater earlier in the evening. After hours of anguish, in which he saw the mangled dead taken away, he was notified his boy was at home. The lad, at the last minute, had changed his mind about going to the movies.

Many Miraculous Escapes.
Many were the miraculous escapes. Miss Marie Rice, 1301 Rhode Island avenue, sat in her orchestra seat, her head sticking through the wire screen. When rescuers sought to move her she pleaded with them to first rescue her friend, Mrs. R. H. Covell, who was pinned by the debris, lying across her friend's lap. Both were removed. Mrs. Covell was dead.

Miss S. W. Richardson, 1842 Vernon street, was sitting in her chair in the balcony. She saw the roof cave in and ducked under her chair. Her act saved her. She was dragged from the debris little injured.

Child Screams "Mother!"
Ernest Budd, of the Avalon apartments, was an eyewitness. He was seated in the balcony and happened to glance up at the ceiling. He saw the center suddenly give way. He dived under his seat. Then he heard a child scream, "Mother!" Then next thing he remembers was waking up to find himself lying near what was the 18th street entrance to the theater. Mr. Budd brought out five women himself before official help arrived.

George Brodie, twenty-five years old, of 1228 Euclid street, said he entered the theater about 8:30 o'clock and at that time the house was two-thirds full. "I grabbed for my hat and coat, and the next minute found myself flat on my face with something weighty on top. I laid still for about five minutes when I noticed at the side of me a girl with an arch or pillar resting upon her. I tried to pull it off, but couldn't move it. Then I started working my way slowly in some direction—I think the middle—and with four other fellows we saw a hole with a light shining through. The next thing I know I was on the street, but I don't know how I got there. I stayed around for a while and helped several others, who were apparently uninjured, out of the place. It was a frightful sight within, nothing but moans, cries and darkness."

Mr. Brodie received slight bruises about the body.

Crash Resembles Earthquake.
The Misses Harrison, proprietors of a millinery store at 2471 18th street, were eyewitnesses to the catastrophe. They were standing at their window when they said they heard a terrific noise. They thought their building shook and believed it was an earthquake. Looking across the street it seemed to them as if the doors of the theater were blown open. There was much confusion among the people, who were apparently in the lobby of the theater. It was shortly after this that the crowd began to assemble and the two ladies opened their shop to take care of the injured. Several women were cared for in the shop, but they refused to give their names. They were later taken away in ambulances.

Frank Lazarus, proprietor of the National Sport Shop, at 2464 18th street, was one of the first persons on the scene after the disaster occurred. He heard a crash, he said, like an automobile smashing into a building. When he reached the door of his shop people already were fighting their way out of the theater, many of them with blood streaming down their faces. Mr. Lazarus supplied hacksaws and pliers with which the early rescuers worked and turned over his shop to care for the dead and injured.

The rendering of first aid to the injured was handicapped by the fact that the drug stores in the immediate neighborhood were closed, and it was impossible to obtain medical and surgical supplies.

Pitiful Scene.
Here is a picture, one of many seen at the ruins. At the east entrance to the theater, pinned under a two-by-six-inch iron beam, supported by an iron girder, lay a fourteen-year-old boy, moaning, still conscious and calling feebly for help.

For hours six firemen and three civilians, H. L. O'Neil, A. T. Steck and George H. Maynard, worked to remove the boy. He couldn't give his name audibly. He was moaning feebly, and his white, pinched face urged his rescuers to their task. Afraid to move the supporting girder lest the iron beam fall on the boy, they tried to dig under the boy, inch by inch, using the greatest care. All the while the boy moaned, pleading with his eyes. Early this morning he had not been removed.

The general confusion incident to guarding the ruins of the theater from the crowd was increased when the members of the police and the motor corps began a dispute as to authority, and a fight ensued. It was also reported that the police and firemen disputed the authority of the military guard for a time, adding to the general mix-up.

The District Commissioners last night issued an order that no moving pictures in the District would be allowed to operate until the snow had been removed from the roofs. Inspector Sullivan, acting chief of police, has notified all captains in the various districts to enforce the ruling.

CARRYING OUT INJURED VICTIMS AFTER TREATMENT IN CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, NEAR SCENE OF DISASTER



COVERED BODY OF ONE OF THE DEAD

given by Dr. Schoenfeld, one of the physicians who went to the scene. He described the discovery of Dr. Brouseau, one of the badly injured, sitting upright, with the head of Tracey, one of the dead, lying in his lap. He also found two men, whose names he was unable to give, hanging from the balcony by their feet, their bodies crushed in the ruin.

J. H. Davidson, a fireman, of truck company No. 2, while working in the ruins of the balcony heard his name called. Looking for the source of the cries, he saw Dr. and Mrs. Hall, 2601 16th street, buried under debris. He cut them out. Both were only slightly injured.

Navy Yard Workers Called.
It was after midnight when the rescue workers sent in a hurry call for men at the Washington navy yard. With their equipment for cutting through steel, all armed with heavy sledge hammers, forty men were immediately dispatched in trucks to the theater.

Their addition to the force of rescue workers brought the total well up over 200. By this time marines, soldiers, police, firemen and doctors from every part of Washington, aided by a number of priests and clergy, who had been given hyperdermic equipment to administer to the suffering, were working among the ruins.

Scores were being received at the Emergency Hospital alone, one of the many institutions caring for the sufferers. Every available home nearby also sheltered some of those suffering from shock and slight injuries.

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Calmly Speak to Rescuers.
Capt. J. H. Hills, United States Army, and his wife were buried beneath the debris on the 18th street. Although badly injured, both were talking calmly to their rescuers, hacking away at the twisted steel and concrete which covered them. Neither had been taken away at an early hour today.

Coroner Nevitt announced he would hold an inquest over the bodies of the dead.

Many Others Believed Dead.
J. E. Kennedy and W. H. Brown of No. 10, precinct were placed in charge of the debris on the 18th street. The Christian Science Church. They both did excellent work under difficult circumstances.

Dr. William Comstock Wilson, 1777 Columbia road, was one of the first to arrive on the scene. He immediately delved into the work of administering first aid and help of every sort and was assisted by Dr. Grimes from the hilltops that unless we heard the parents say he believed at least seventy-five people were trapped under the debris and of this number it appeared to him forty were dead.

Troopers Called to Help.
One hundred and fifty troopers from Fort Myer were called upon to aid in the rescue work.

Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis
Telephone Main 992 (Legal Notice) 923 H Street N.W.

KNICKERBOCKER'S DIRECTORS VOICE GRIEF OVER DISASTER

Issue Statement Expressing Amazement That Building Collapsed—District Officials to Start Inquiry at Once.

The board of directors of the Knickerbocker Theater assembled at 1 o'clock this morning at the home of Harry M. Crandall and issued the following statement:

"We are stunned by this catastrophe. The Knickerbocker was the prize of our circuit, constructed at no limit of cost, before the war, when the best materials and engineering brains were secured to make this house a model of theater architecture and construction. The structure was subjected to and passed every municipal and government inspection and test.

"We cannot find words to express the depths of sympathy we feel for those bereaved by this appalling catastrophe. We would infinitely rather have abandoned all our enterprises than that a single life should have been lost or any individual maimed or injured."

(Signed)
"HARRY M. CRANDALL, president,
"A. E. BEITZEL, vice president,
"BARRY BULKLEY, secretary."

The Commissioners and the District engineers will begin an immediate probe into the cause of the disaster and responsibility as soon as the necessary steps can be taken. Commissioner Oyster said this morning:

"We are going to sift this to the bottom," he said. "An investigation will be started as soon as we can get the building in motion. Regarding reports of consideration given to closing the house yesterday because of the snow on the roof, the Commissioner said that it would seem almost criminal if any one knew of the perilous condition of the building and allowed it to be opened."

Other Roofs Must Be Cleared.
The District Commissioners last night, immediately after the catastrophe had been reported, issued an order that no moving pictures in the District would be allowed to operate until the snow had been removed from the roofs.

At the same time, Inspector Sullivan, acting chief of police, notified all captains in the various districts of this ruling. Coroner Nevitt announced that a formal inquest would be held over the bodies of the dead victims of the disaster, and, if possible, fix the responsibilities.

offer was promptly accepted. Because of the seriousness of the tragedy calls were sent to practically every hospital in the city for ambulances and physicians and to every police station for patrol wagons and reserves.

Much difficulty was experienced by both the firemen and policemen in their efforts to reach the scene. Seven pieces of fire apparatus and one police patrol wagon were reported disabled en route to the theater.

Both vehicles of No. 10 engine company became stalled within fifty feet of the company's station, Maryland avenue between 13th and 14th streets northeast. Firemen and nearby residents worked hard to get the engine and hose carried out of the deep drift snow, and finally the company was obliged to report out of service.

Those families had not returned home, the delay causing anxiety. It was not until late in the night that hospital attendants were able to give much definite information, the physicians taking care to dress the injuries before commencing time recording names and addresses.

Detectives Sweeney and Messer, on duty at police headquarters, were sent to the theater by Lieut. Plimmons. They soon telephoned for additional men, but the department was without means of transportation for them. Police officials realized what it meant to be without automobiles in good working order, and it is probable that an appeal will be made to Congress for money for the purchase of a sufficient number of such cars for use by members of the force detailed at headquarters.

Destroy 12,000 Gallons.
UNION HILL, N. J., January 28.—Spectators came from miles around today to watch United States marshals pour 12,000 gallons of whisky and seven barrels of wine into the gutters here. The liquor was seized at various times during the past year at Jersey City, Hoboken and Union Hill.

SPECIAL NOTICES.
DESIRED THAT ANY ONE WHO SERVED TO OFFER TO COLLECT MAN IN THE 24th of 224 Division in the drive from Chateau Thierry to the south in latter part of July, 1918, send to me name and address. Immediately to room 147, State and Navy Building, Washington, D. C.

Asbestos Roofing Cement
Cements, leaks, preserves and keeps any kind of roof in perfect condition. We will repair roof for 3 years and will repair all leaks arising from natural causes free of charge. Also sold in bulk. 50¢ per bucket, \$1.00 per barrel. Lincoln 4218. Madison Clark, 1814 Pa. ave. s.e.

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Old slag and other roofs repaired. Prompt service. Best material guaranteed. Get estimate on new roof. 3221 14th St. N.W. J. F. TOMPKINS, 3221 14th St. N.W.

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20¢ boxes and print 500 each. Letterheads, Envelopes and Billheads, 1,500 in all, for \$20.50.
The Duplicating Office
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Killed by Horse's Fall.
Special Dispatch to The Star.
STAUNTON, Va., January 28.—Conrad Clemmer, aged eighteen years, is dead at Middlebrook, as the result of injuries received when his horse fell with him as he was riding home from a Christian Endeavor meeting at his church.

YOU REMEMBER ME!
John Hodges, the Bookbinder
1011 E Street N.W.
Ground Floor.
Bookbinding has not advanced in price and now is the time to have it done. Bring in your old books and have them bound.

MANY KILLED AND INJURED WHEN THEATER COLLAPSES

(Continued from First Page.)
of hysterical women and of those actually injured were heard for blocks away.

Rescue work began immediately. Those who had escaped by a miracle joined the police reserves and firemen, who reached the scene within fifteen minutes after the crash. There was no light. The blinding snow made the work more difficult. And above everything else came the cries of the injured, many of them completely buried, and out of sight beneath a mass of timbers.

Injured Carried to Homes.
Police, firemen and volunteers carried the injured first into houses and stores nearby. Every residence became a dressing station. Doctors throughout the city responded to hurried calls. All available ambulances were sent, but many were unavailable, having broken down during the day in the snow. After they had reached the scene, and when the work of rescue was well under way, the entire field hospital unit from the Walter Reed Hospital, with its fifteen ambulances, was dispatched. Trained soldiers joined the ranks of the rescuers.

Torches, candles and flashlights were brought into play. Pickaxes, iron bars, hammers and saws were taken from the fire apparatus and the rescuers began hacking away at the concrete and wood. One by one the injured were pulled from beneath, carried to the street and given attention there or put into ambulances and rushed away.

Last Sacrament Administered.
Although the standing walls were condemned immediately by the police and all those around warned, the rescue work went on. Three Roman Catholic priests went about and administered last sacrament to the dying.

The heavy wire screen, which in such buildings retains the plaster of the ceiling, accounted for the saving of many in the audience. Some of the rescued were found with their heads sticking out of debris through holes in this screen. In turn, it retarded the rescue work. Many pried one beneath this screen had to wait for men with saws and other instruments to cut them out.

Rescue Work Difficult.
The nature of the collapse made the work of rescue difficult. First to fall was the roof, and the crash brought down the balcony. This made two separate layers of debris through which the bodies had to be

ASKS PULPITS TO URGE KINDNESS TO ANIMALS

Writer Points Out Need of Educating Parents as Well as Children.

To the Editor of The Star:
The many friends of the animals would like to thank Mrs. Halstead through The Star for her splendid article of January 21 pertaining to the education of our young people through the public schools in kindness to animals.

I would like to add that the parents could stand a little of it, too. The reason why we have given out from the pulpit? Surely there could be no more fitting place to preach the gospel of kindness, consideration and a knowledge of our obligations to others, and practicing these is surely the foundation of all religion.

Many times have I seen a little child gather in his sheltering arms a homeless kitten and try to bring it in the house, the mother throwing up her hands and saying, "What a nuisance!" or "What a mess!" or "What a disgrace!" or "What a shame!" or "What a nuisance!" or "What a mess!" or "What a disgrace!" or "What a shame!"

Indeed, I would like it to be heard from the hilltops that unless we heard the parents say he believed at least seventy-five people were trapped under the debris and of this number it appeared to him forty were dead.

Ignorance Is The Cause of much sickness
Recognizing this, we have for many years made education in real, specific hygiene the keynote of our work.

With a large and naturally susceptible, but intelligent, negro population, and with no up-to-date milk laws to support our efforts, we have, by educational propaganda in our schools and in Washington newspapers, reduced the death rate both among white and colored people and placed the District of Columbia well in the front rank with more favored cities and states.

Our 12 Health Rules, condensed into six, teach:
1. Avoid house dust and impure or close air, day and night.
2. Get all the light and sunshine possible into your home.
3. Drink plenty of pasteurized milk and cream. None raw.
4. Eat plain, nourishing food.
5. Get sufficient sleep by retiring early enough.
6. Try to avoid worry. Be cheerful. Think kindly. Your mind acts on your body.

If you tire easily—or are losing weight—and have a persistent light cough—or hoarseness—do not lose time. See a doctor, or go to the Health Department Clinic, 409 15th St. N.W., Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday, at 2-4 o'clock. Friday evenings from 7:30-9 o'clock. Examinations free.

Consumption can be cured only in its early stages
This Bulletin is Paid for by the
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MEETING IS POSTPONED.

New Date to Be Set for Wilson Foundation Addresses.

The Woodrow Wilson Foundation meeting, scheduled for last night at the New Masonic Temple, was indefinitely postponed on account of the inability of one of the speakers, Dr. Louis Smith, president of Washington and Lee University, to reach Washington in time for the meeting. It is thought that Dr. Smith left Staunton, Va., for Washington and became snowed out on the way.

Rabbi Wise of New York, who was to address the meeting, arrived in Washington, but left again for New York yesterday evening to return when the new date is set.

WILL ADDRESS ZIONISTS.

Dr. Baer Epstein to Tell of Work in Palestine.
Dr. Baer Epstein will speak, under the auspices of the Washington Zionist district on the progress in the work of upbuilding Palestine as the Jewish homeland tomorrow night at 8 o'clock at the Adath Israel Synagogue, 6th and I streets.

Members of the women's Zionist organization, Hadassah, the Mizrahi and Poale Zion are co-operating in the arrangements for the meeting, and the public has been invited to attend. Joseph A. Wilner, president of the Washington Zionist district, will preside.

Missing.
—Albert G. Buchler, Portner Apartments.
Mrs. Clyde M. Gearhart, 1808 Columbia road.
Mrs. Charles C. Tucker, 2117 Constitution avenue.
Norma Haley, 833 Blittmore street.
Eleanor Haley, 832 Blittmore street.

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The young man received internal injuries which caused intense suffering until his death a day later. His funeral was held at Mount Herman Lutheran Church and was largely attended.

QUICK RESPONSE TO CALLS FOR HELP

Firemen, Policemen and Marines Rushed to Scene of Disaster.

Lieut. C. L. Plimmons, night chief of detectives, was on duty at police headquarters, when the first call for the fire department was received from the alarm box at 18th street and Columbia road at 9:10 o'clock. Immediately upon receipt of the alarm, the lieutenant learned of the seriousness of the disaster and got busy on the telephone wires to have police of several precincts in readiness for emergency work.

Exactly thirteen minutes after the first alarm was received, a second alarm was sounded, summoning six additional companies of firemen to the scene, and at 9:40 o'clock the sounding of a fourth alarm brought five more companies. At 9:50 o'clock a fifth alarm was sounded, six more companies responding to aid in the rescue work, making a total of twenty engine companies, six trucks, a water tower and a fire engine fuel wagon scheduled to respond.

Marines Offer Services.
Shortly after the sounding of the fifth alarm Lieut. Plimmons received an offer of the services of the marines stationed at the Pan-American building, where the conference on the limitation of arms is being held. The

offer was promptly accepted. Because of the seriousness of the tragedy calls were sent to practically every hospital in the city for ambulances and physicians and to every police station for patrol wagons and reserves.

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